

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY



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AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY



Fort Defiance, Virginia

A private, non-profit
boarding school for boys in
grades 5-12

Member:
National Association of
Independent Schools
Virginia Association of
Independent Schools
Southern Association of
Independent Schools
Association of
Military Schools
and Colleges of the
United States

Accredited by:
Virginia State Board
of Education
Southern Association of
Colleges and
Secondary Schools

Augusta Military Academy
accepts candidates for
enrollment without regard
to race, creed, ethnic or
national origin in all of its
programs and facilities.



The Private, Military School – Foundation of the All-Around Young Man

By the time boys approach their teenage years, they have developed particular likes and dislikes in their day-to-day living. Many, however, have serious difficulties in recognizing meaningful values, identifying personal objectives and determining the course they must take in order to achieve those goals.

The key to bringing these values into clearer focus is often found in the private sector of junior and secondary education, where smaller classes, the encouragement of sound work habits, a dedicated adult faculty and structured programs are accepted standards—cornerstones of a fulfilling, productive life.

A military environment materially enhances the inherent strengths of independent schools. The military training instills respect for others, nurtures the worth of self-discipline and provides opportunities for recognized leadership, an achievement available to only the very few in large day schools where all too often the distractions of urban living cloud the more important issues of learning and accomplishment.





Augusta— The Choice of Many

Among the private, boarding, military schools available to parents interested in seeing their sons advance beyond their current achievement levels, Augusta Military Academy offers much that sets it apart from others in junior and secondary education.

First, the location of the school is ideally suited for the serious purpose of educating young men. Somewhat suburban in character, the site is essentially rural and yet accessible. By itself, the location draws students from all over Virginia, from across the nation and indeed from many foreign lands. It also attracts teachers who, in addition to imparting the knowledge of their disciplines, give the guidance and understanding necessary for their charges to feel the substance and perceive the reason for their being.







The college preparatory academic program is another of Augusta's strongest assets. Basically traditional in its content and methodology, all courses of instruction are subject to continuous review, to insure that material and teaching techniques are in tune with the needs of succeeding generations of students. While the school welcomes innovative approaches to academics, new ideas are tested for their true worth before becoming fully acceptable. Small classes, evening study periods and the ready availability of teachers all help the student realize that he is an individual and not merely a number on file.



Under the direction of a Guidance Counselor, all teachers participate in Augusta's strong and supportive guidance program. Assistance for students is not restricted to academics, but may involve personal or social problems common to growing boys.

Another of Augusta's proudest assets is the athletic program. It is maintained in strict compliance with the rules of the Virginia Independent Conference and involves interscholastic competition as well as a comprehensive intramural program for all boys. The facilities to support the program are among the finest in the League and include a well-kept gymnasium, an indoor swimming pool, two football fields, tennis courts, a fencing hall, baseball diamond and a golf course close by. Winter skiing at nearby Massanutten and roller skating in Staunton are also popular sports. There are separate fields for the Lower School program.

Teams at every level are taught the fundamentals of the various sports and are also instilled with the principles of good sportsmanship. Sports at the various seasons of the year include football, basketball, lacrosse, baseball, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis and fencing. There is also competition in the school's indoor rifle range where teams have compiled an outstanding record in local and national events.

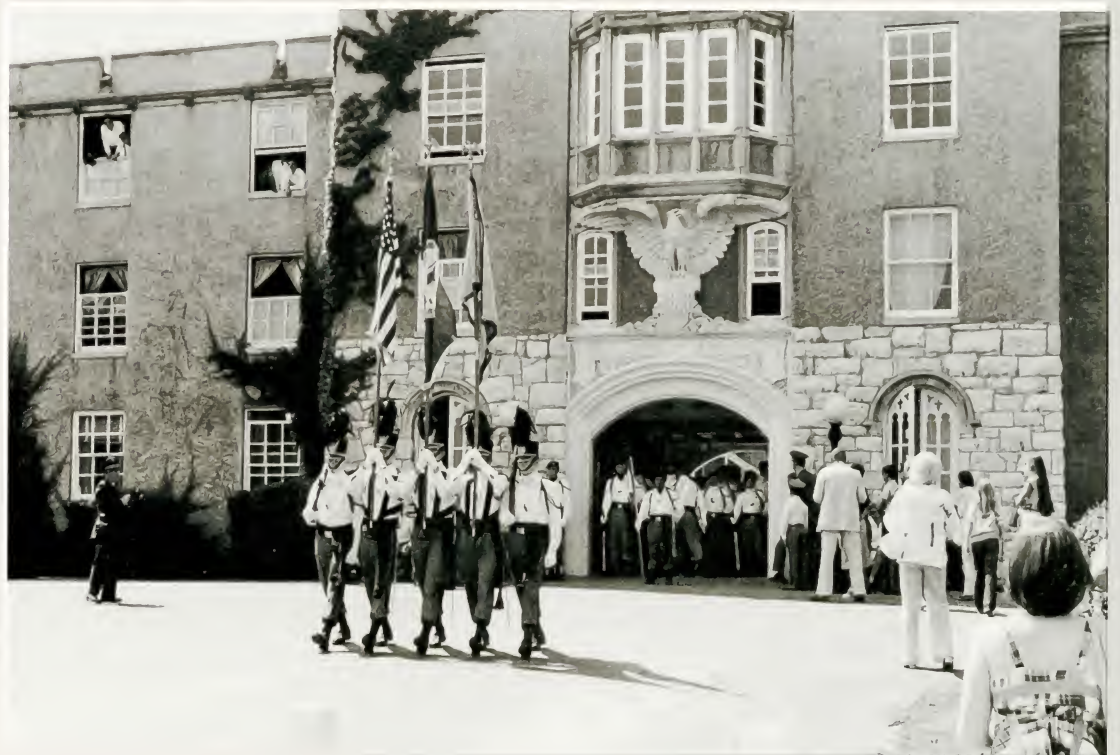














The "extra dimension" at Augusta is the military program, or Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC). With no apologies whatever, Augusta does not attempt to graduate professional soldiers, but rather, emphasizes the self-discipline, the leadership opportunities and the mutual respect for one's fellow man that military training enhances. Good manners, neatness of dress, good posture and the tangible rewards—medals and citations—for individual or group excellence are among the more positive values of the uniformed educational process.

Finally, it is the end product of an Augusta Military Academy experience which attracts many parents and their sons to the school. Graduates have made their marks in business, the literary field, the professions, sports and virtually all areas of life's endeavors. Perhaps more than any other single reason, this is what makes boys want to attend Augusta, and it has long been the policy at the school that a boy should develop a real desire to participate in the values to be found before he is admitted to the programs.





Augusta Military Academy, Circa 1895.



Augusta's Heritage

At the conclusion of war in 1865, when Virginia had only the barest of educational facilities, a Confederate soldier named Charles S. Roller founded what was to become Augusta Military Academy. It started as a day school to provide a high school education for those young men whose careers had been interrupted by the war. It later became a boarding school and remains so.

Actually, the school was started more than 100 years earlier by the Reverend John Craig, the first pastor of the historic Old Stone Church which still stands adjacent to the present campus. The school was totally destroyed in the Civil War but became the site for Charles Roller's dream. Members of the Roller family were active in the school administration until the 1960s when the current Superintendent was named. The affairs of the Academy are governed by a Board of Trustees through the Superintendent, and the school has recently been recognized as a non-profit educational institution.

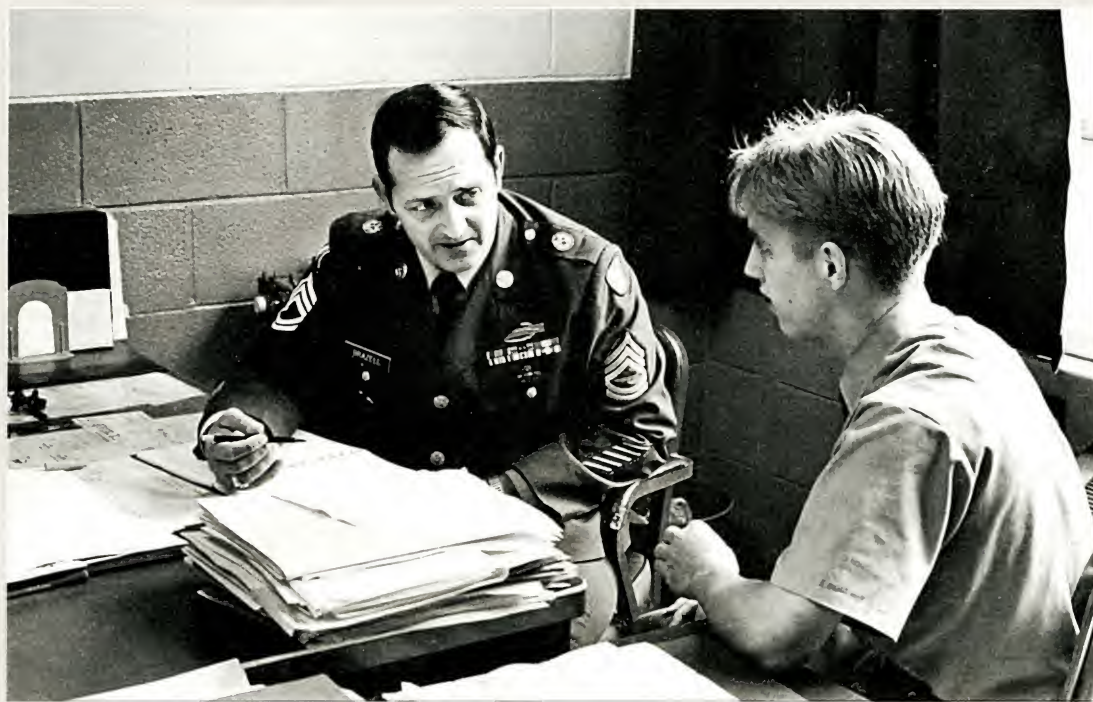
In 1945 the school formed what was to become one of the truly outstanding drill teams in Virginia, named after Charles S. Roller III, grandson of the founder. Members of the unit wear special shoulder patches and fourologers with the pride that accompanies significant accomplishment.

Facilities

The campus at Augusta contains all the academic and recreational facilities to support the growth of young men in mind and body. The principal physical feature is Main Barracks, long a landmark in the Shenandoah Valley. In addition nearby is the spacious Mess Hall, and attached to it is the school's library containing nearly 6000 volumes. The Lower School classrooms and living accommodations are in separate buildings. A well-equipped gymnasium, indoor swimming pool and other utilitarian buildings round out the structures, all of which are surrounded by playing fields and space for walking and exploring the woods and fields of the school's property. The Parade Field, also used for football practice and games, lies directly in front of Main Barracks. Sunday parades and other formations draw onlookers from the nearby area and from many miles away.









Academics

All but a handful of Augusta's graduates continue their education at colleges and universities across the nation. The program of study is, therefore, designed for these students. Each subject area has many levels and options, but instruction is always geared to the specific needs of each student. Such individual attention is traditional at Augusta. The school is keenly aware that many young men need close guidance and extra help in areas where they may be weak.

The overall academic program includes electives, but the school insists on a solid background in English and mathematics. Within classes, new approaches have allowed teachers to structure advanced courses so that independent study by certain students is possible.

While the relatively small classes held at Augusta surely help students master given subject matter, other features of the academic program are equally important. Among them, there are evening help classes and the regular supervised study hall for boys in academic difficulty who benefit from the one-to-one attention they receive. Moreover, teachers are available throughout the evening study hours in barracks for even more help, signified by the traditional "SOS" sign—a towel placed over the door of the student's room.

Special remedial reading courses are available for those in need in the school's Reading Clinic. Having been established as one of the foundations of the Summer Session, boys in the regular school have found rapid and meaningful results reflected in their day to day work.

Like many good schools, Augusta Military Academy maintains an adviser system, directed by the Guidance Counselor. The adult/student relationships which develop from these associations are of marked value to the student's academic progress and also provide a mature "sounding board" for the student who may have one or more of the personal problems encountered by growing boys.

The true center of academics is the school library with its 6000 volumes, several dozen periodicals and hundreds of filmstrips and other resource materials. The school feels that the proper use of library facilities is vital to learning efficiency and each section of English receives instruction from the librarian.

As mentioned earlier, Augusta has basic requirements in English and mathematics. In addition, there are requirements for graduation in the sciences and history for a general diploma and also in the foreign languages for an academic diploma. The specifics of these general disciplines vary as the needs of Augusta's students adjust with the times, but there is a special element in the study of history which Augusta makes full use of: it is called "living history" and comes by the name because of the school's proximity to so much of the history of the United States of America.





Close by are many of the sites in Virginia where historic decisions were made and implemented. A wide variety of projects, undertaken by students with faculty counsel, may include field trips to Washington, D.C., Colonial Williamsburg, the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello, or any of the nearby historic locations where much of the basic thought was concentrated in the founding of America as a free and independent republic.

The Faculty

Among the more vital ingredients for a successful school environment is the quality of the teachers who guide and supervise the education of the young. At Augusta, faculty loyalty is sustained at a high level and is a credit to the dedication which prevails. Along with teachers of long standing are younger adults who bring fresh elements of vigor and enthusiasm to their calling. The balance of the more mature faculty who share in the successes of students of yesterday as well as of today, with those who offer new approaches and new energies has been a significant factor in Augusta's ability to hold fast to worthy traditions and at the same time accommodate the changing needs of today's young men.



Student Life at Augusta

When a student arrives at Augusta, it is often the first time he has been away from his home for any length of time. The experience of group living in a community of peers and adults usually results in appreciation of life's values which will stand every graduate in good stead throughout his own lifetime.

At the heart of life at Augusta are the Honor System and the Honor Code. Simply stated, these mean that no cadet will take unfair advantage of another, and that he will not lie, steal, or cheat, nor will he tolerate such activity in others. Adherence to these codes governs the administration of the necessary rules and regulations found in any school, and Augusta cadets quickly develop an appreciation and concern for their worth.

But all is not rigidly regulated at the school. Life is seldom dull for the growing boy, and the extracurricular programs are fully as consuming as the academics and military training. Indeed the rewards of participation in the well-rounded athletic program, sharing social activities with girls from nearby schools, motion pictures on the campus, town leave, trips to places of historic or general interest, the creation of talent shows, club memberships and many more diversions provide invaluable outlets for youthful energies.





Of a more formal nature, parades, competitive drills, the Band Company and the Roller Rifles are all eagerly looked forward to as are the awards for excellence in competitive events. The Band Company is an especially select group and indispensable to parades, inspections, reviews and drills. Members of the Band wear a special gold fourragere and a distinctive patch. They also live in their own section of barracks as further recognition of their contribution to the school.

Summer Session at Augusta



The non-military summer session is offered to students in grade five through post-graduate and runs for six weeks starting in June. Courses are planned both for enrichment and extra credit as well as for remedial purposes. The summer session at Augusta has become noted for its very small student to teacher ratio, for the Reading Clinic and primarily for the improvement which students have shown in achievement levels, academic attitudes and study habits. In addition to study, there is a diverse recreational program which includes field trips to places such as Williamsburg, Washington, Gettysburg and many other points of interest.









The Lower School

Grades five, six and seven at Augusta make up the Lower School. While the overall programs are similar to those of the Upper School, an effort is made to provide an even more homelike atmosphere, with the annual observation of Halloween, for example, being a celebration of more excitement than found among the older cadets.

The Lower School has its own barracks, separate classrooms and its own athletic fields. The academics are basic in nature and calculated to prepare these younger men for what follows in their educational careers. Scholastic weaknesses are determined and appropriate measures taken for strengthening. The instillation of sound study habits and work methods are stressed for the benefit of both the present and future of the cadets.









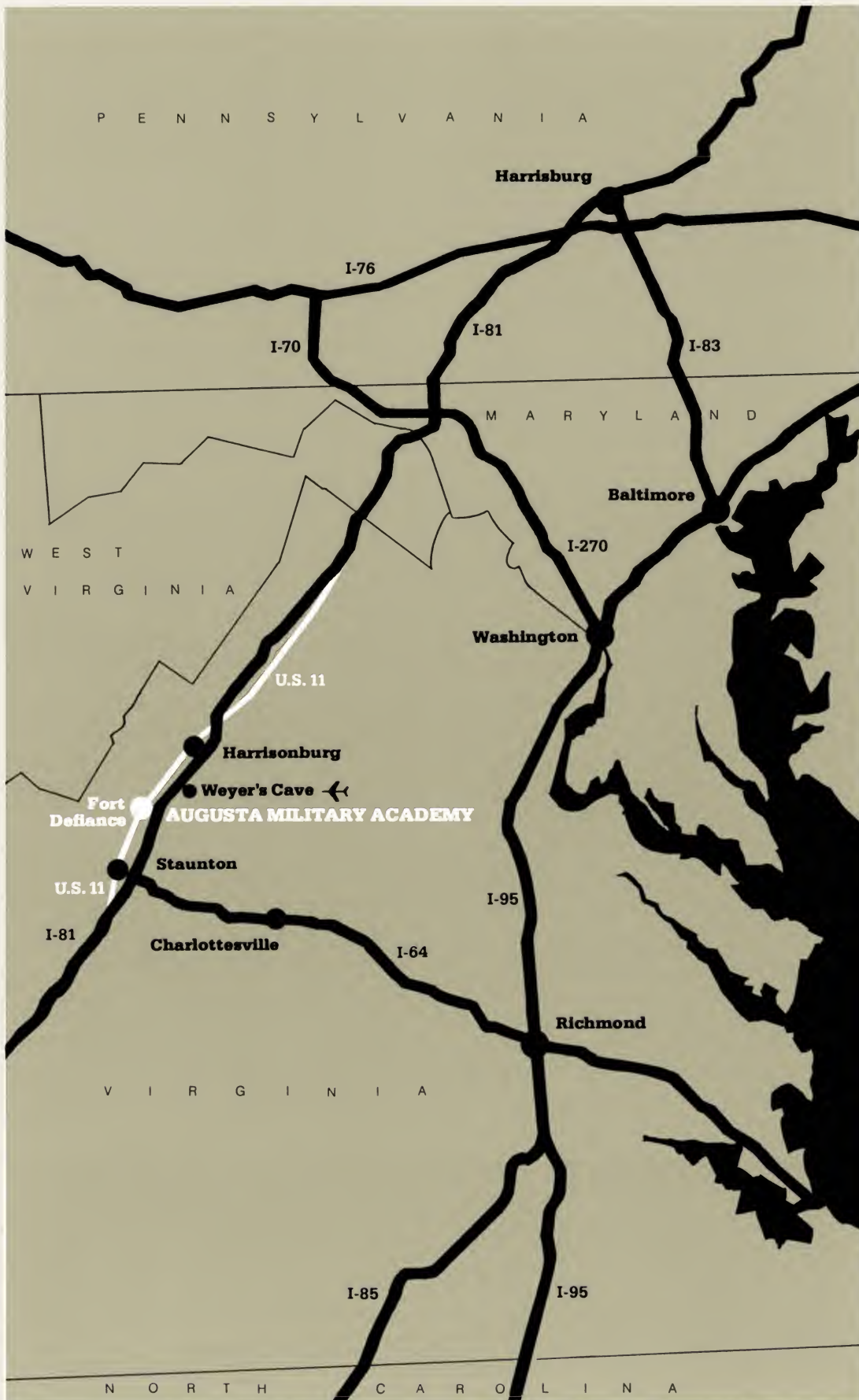
Visits and Further Information

A collection of photographs and general text such as is presented here can only scratch the surface of an institution such as Augusta Military Academy. Thoughtful parents, seeking improvement in their son's educational outlook and accomplishment, are urged to visit the school for a first hand exposure to the plant, facilities and people which are the great strengths of Augusta. In addition, more detailed information regarding school regulations, tuitions and fees, travel arrangements, what students should bring to school and other pertinent data, is available from the Admissions Office. To make arrangements for a visit, or to obtain more information, contact should be made with:

Director of Admissions
Augusta Military Academy
Fort Defiance, Virginia 24437

Telephone: 703-248-1281
Lower School: 703-248-9858





The school at Fort Defiance is located on U.S. Highway 11, eight miles north of Staunton and twelve miles south of Harrisonburg. Exit 60 from the north and 59 from the south on Interstate 81 connect with U.S. 11. Piedmont Airlines services the Shenandoah Valley Airport at Weyer's Cave, five miles from the school, where limousine service is available.

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